

From: Jr.
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 9:07am
Subject: Re: MacNN: The Macintosh News Network

I urge you to impose significantly more strict measures on Microsoft. This is their second time around the anti-trust issue. They have shown total disregard for the law and the courts. Their own suggested settlement to the class action suits is an example of this. They would like to give away free software, their own, to schools. This is one of the only markets in which they do not already have a firm monopoly. This settlement, they know, would give them a push toward domination. After all, giving away software costs them almost nothing. Nothing more than the media it is stored on.

I have read others suggestions that MS be forced to open their Application Programming Interfaces to other companies to allow better integration of programs with the Windows OS. This seems like a drastic step, but a necessary one. As long as this company is not broken up into competing entities, constant supervision of it's actions will be necessary. Breaking up MS would benefit consumers in many ways. It would prevent MS from creating features in it's Office Suites and other programs which only work in their own OS. It would force them to create open standards in the Windows OS and create an environment where excellence in developing software is what sells. It would create options for consumers and result in improved products. What monopoly innovates without pressure from the marketplace? What monopoly provides excellent customer service? None. Just look at service from Cable TV companies as an example. They are a disaster. Only threat of government intervention precludes the system from becoming even worse. The result is a system which only provides just enough service to prevent the government stepping in.

In closing I would like you to know that I own MS stock which has been a great investment. However, in good conscience I must stand up and speak out against the actions of Microsoft.